

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8-17, and 20-21 are amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter in accordance with paragraph 29 of the specification, which indicates that the Network Elements (NE) are external to the Network Management System (NMS) (see Fig. 1).

Claims 1-23 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobs (U.S. 5,671,502). Applicant traverses the rejection because Jacobs fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims. For example, Jacobs fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed method (independent claims 1 and 8-13), network element (independent claims 14-17), network management system (independent claim 20 and 21) wherein a pointer is identified in a response, and the pointer indicates a location of additional information in a data communication network or network element external to the network management system, as recited in all of the rejected claims.

Jacobs merely discloses transmitting various responses (i.e., network alarms 306 or network fault information 204) to a Network Management System (NMS). However, Jacobs fails to teach or suggest that the responses contain at least one pointer indicating a location for additional information. The Office Action asserted that Jacobs teaches such pointers at page 4, line 5; however, the pointers disclosed in Jacobs, particularly at the references passage, are actually inside the NMS system 208 (see, Jacobs, e.g., col. 8, lines 3-12; Fig. 3 and 3a, which clearly disclose that the element 318 is contained in the NMS system 208). As a result, the pointers disclosed by Jacobs are not included in the alarms or fault information (306, 204).

To the contrary, in accordance with the claimed invention, the pointers are used to point to a location outside the network management system, e.g. to a location in the data communication network or to a location in a network element (see specification at page 4, lines 16-21). However, Jacobs fails to teach or suggest any such pointer because the links discussed in Jacobs (see, e.g., col. 8) are links between two parts of one database inside the network management system. Furthermore, the links discussed in Jacobs are not in any way provided with the network alarms 306 and/or network outage information 308.

As a result, Jacobs fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention which simplifies the network management system and reduces traffic between it and the network elements by storing information pertaining to network events remotely to the network management

system, which is thus made more scalable. Moreover, Jacobs fails to teach or suggest such a solution that easily accommodates elements provided by a plurality of vendors, as the devices can store manuals and information by themselves, without the need to modify the network management system to know everything.

To the contrary, Jacobs' network management system is of a particularly complex type, and, in fact, suffers from the exact problem solved by the claimed invention.

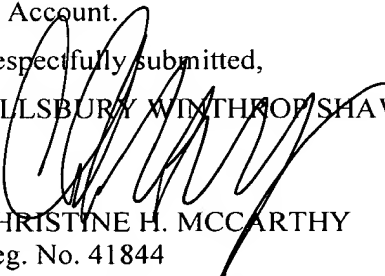
Thus, claims 1-23 are patentable over Jacobs.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-23 are believed to be in form for allowance, and a notice indicating such is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner believes may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



CHRISTINE H. MCCARTHY

Reg. No. 41844

Tel. No. 703 770-7743

Fax No. 703 770-7901

Date: January 10, 2007
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900